

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS ALL HAZARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 17, 2011

PRESENT: Anthony Schirillo, Chairman; Mike Abramowitz, Amateur Radio Emergency Service; Eric Bernard, Aquarion Water Co.; Nick Gentile, Sikorsky Fire Dept., Jude Ade, Sikorsky Aircraft; Linda Barlow, Sikorsky Aircraft; Christina Tolides, Sikorsky Aircraft; Alice B. Zosa, Hampford Research; Steve Woods, American Red Cross; Lynn D'Aurio, Straton Industries; Ed Ogle, Cray Valley USA, LLC; John Turbeville, Ashcroft, Inc.; Paul Plouffe, Service Master; Andrea Boissevain, Stratford Health Dept.; Andrew Anderson, Stratford Health Dept.; Dawn Severine, Stratford Health Dept.; Greta Roberts, Stratford Health Dept.; Lt. Paul DosSantos, Stratford Police Dept.; Donna Best, Stratford EMS; Brian Lampart, Stratford Fire Marshal; Brian Carey, Stratford Conservation Director; Ed Zygmant, Westport Fire Dept./ Fairfield County Hazmat

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Schirillo called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. The minutes of the meeting conducted December 16, 2010 were approved unanimously.

Mr. Schirillo reported that the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) may no longer be a stand-alone agency due to a restructuring at the state level. The proposal is to make DEMHS part of the Dept. of Public Safety. The proposed changes will still have to go through the legislative process. Even though the changes will cause some disruption, our Region One has discussed the proposed changes and has decided that Region One will continue to take care of themselves. The biggest concern is that funding may be frozen during the realignment.

Chairman Schirillo announced that a new Deputy Emergency Manager has been appointed. His name is Tom Moore.

The Stratford Emergency Operation Plans have been updated and distributed to the main departments. There were so many changes in the last few years that Chairman Schirillo updated the plan. It is now known as the 2010 plan.

There are a few upcoming events and exercises planned:

On May 3, 2011 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) will hold their annual Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium at 9:00 am at the Crown Plaza in Cromwell.

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) will be held in Atlantic City. Region One received funding for the radio systems from this Homeland Security grant program. Five people from Region One will be attending.

A tri state exercise will take place during a week in early April. It will deal with terrorism and is the first full functional exercise ever held for an extended period. New York City has been holding them in the past.

Chairman Schirillo said he has learned from the last several storm events what FEMA is looking for when declaring a disaster. Two areas of improvement are getting the private sector and the citizens more access to the funds available. The funds are through low interest loans

and the Small Business Association (SBA). Mr. Schirillo would like people to know all that is available to them in a disaster situation. SBA also deals with mitigation of problems such as recurring flooding and what might be done to stop it.

Another area Mr. Schirillo is working on is putting together a process for the town to track the federal requirements in the FEMA forms. For example, there was a cost in the last storm to closing down the town that is beyond just the overtime for cleaning up the snow.

Spring flooding is the next potential problem area. Flooding is a concern with over 52 inches of snow this past winter, a high water table and early spring rains. Stratford had no damage during the last high water event. Chairman Schirillo asked that any storm damage that businesses experience be reported to him. He will then have the information to report to DMIS (Disaster Management Interoperability Services).

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.

Laurie Goodsell, secretary